

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

[CORRECTED]

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 22

## 96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES WALTON GRAY (Sponsor), FISHER, PACE, McGEORGHEGAN, DAY, ATKINS, McCREERY, McCANN BEATTY, MAY, MORGAN, OXFORD, McNEIL, WYATT, BAHR, BROWN (85), CASEY, CONWAY (27), HUGHES, SWINGER, RIDDLE, ZERR, HOSKINS, LARGENT AND WRIGHT (Co-sponsors).

4907L.011

2       **WHEREAS**, women have served honorably and with courage in all of America's wars  
and conflicts since the American Revolution; and

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4       **WHEREAS**, the United States military has evolved from a predominantly male force to  
5 a force of over 14% women who are currently serving on active duty, and nearly 17% serving  
6 in the Reserves and National Guard; and

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8       **WHEREAS**, the population of women veterans is increasing exponentially from 1.1  
9 million in 1980 to a projection of nearly 2 million by 2020, and will comprise more than 10%  
10 of the veteran population; and

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12       **WHEREAS**, the projected population of male veterans is expected to continue to  
13 decline; and

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15       **WHEREAS**, given that an unprecedented number of women are serving in the military  
16 and participating in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, the United States  
17 Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is working to provide consistent, comprehensive, and  
18 quality health care and benefits to women veterans of all eras; and

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20       **WHEREAS**, the number of women veterans has increased over the last decade because  
21 there is an increasing number and proportion of women who are entering and leaving the  
22 military, and women are living longer than men and have a younger age distribution compared  
23 to male veterans; and

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26       **WHEREAS**, even though the VA has been at the forefront of health care and lifestyle  
27 solutions affecting an aging male population, there is now a growing need to improve health care  
28 services for women veterans, ensure clinicians are properly trained to provide primary care and  
29 gender specific care to women of all ages, and identify innovative courses of treatment and  
30 solutions to obstacles that are unique to women veterans; and

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32       **WHEREAS**, with a rapidly increasing number of women serving in the military today  
33 and returning from deployments as seasoned veterans, and some with exposure to combat, VA  
34 facilities and veterans service organizations are working to ensure that the post-deployment  
35 mental and physical health needs unique to women veterans are also met; and

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37       **WHEREAS**, even though the roles of women in the military have changed over time and  
38 will continue to change, they deserve to be acknowledge for their military service and treated  
39 with equal respect:

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41       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the members of the Missouri  
42 House of Representatives, Ninety-sixth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate  
43 concurring therein, hereby encourages the Missouri Veterans Commission and its women  
44 veterans state coordinator to work in conjunction with the National Foundation for Women  
45 Legislators and the Center for Women Veterans at the United States Department of Veterans  
46 Affairs to reach out to all women veterans within the State of Missouri to encourage them to  
47 bring their specific needs and concerns to the attention of agency officials so that state legislators  
48 and agency officials may work together to identify unique issues impacting women veterans and  
49 consider policy solutions that will improve the quality of life for women veterans within this  
50 state; and

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52       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Missouri General Assembly formally honors  
53 all of the women in this state who have heroically answered their call to duty and recognizes the  
54 important role women have played in shaping this great nation; and

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56       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of  
57 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the  
58 Missouri Veterans Commission.

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